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sequence of the parts. Abundant citations from the original authorities, moreover, afford every facility to the reader for verification or further research.

THOMAS D. RAMBAUT.

The Federal Government of Switzerland. By BERNARD MOSES, PH.D. Oakland, California, 1889.—256 pp.

Switzerland is certainly now receiving a fair share of attention from students of politics. Within a short time two English translations of the text of its federal constitution have appeared, and also two systematic works on the public law of the confederation, besides the chapter on the same subject in Wilson's work on *The State*, and many magazine and review articles. Of the two systematic works—that of Adams and Cunningham, previously reviewed in the POLITICAL SCIENCE QUARTERLY, and the present one—it would be difficult and even useless to attempt to decide which is the better. They are both valuable and they supplement each other well. The work of Moses is evidently that of a man much more familiar with the course of speculation in the field of comparative politics and with the facts relating to federal government in general, than are the authors of the other book.

The present work is not so large as the earlier, and as it contains considerable information about other federal governments and some theoretical discussions, it omits many topics fully presented in its predecessor. Indeed, Moses' work should rather be called an essay on comparative constitutional law of federal unions, with special reference to Switzerland. The chapter on "Distribution of Power," for example, containing some forty pages, devotes only three of them to Switzerland,—the rest being occupied with an interesting essay on the tendency in a growing government first to the concentration and then to the diffusion of power. The chapter reminds one strongly of the treatment of the same subject in the work on *Comparative Politics*, by the same author and Mr. Crane jointly.

Among the governments receiving much attention in the book are those of South America. This is the more welcome as so little work has been done in this field by English scholars. Mexico, the Argentine Confederation, Columbia and Venezuela receive special attention,—Canada, Germany and the United States being frequently referred to by way of comparison. While most of the facts given by Professor Moses about the Swiss government are also contained in the work of Adams and Cunningham, yet they are often put in different connections, so as to bring out more clearly their significance. Students of comparative politics will recognize this advantage and will agree, I think, that

Professor Moses has made a valuable contribution to our stock of works on political science—a stock which, although rapidly growing, is at present meagre enough.

E. J. JAMES.

Éléments de Droit Administratif à l'usage des Étudiants des Facultés de Droit. Par J. MARIE. Paris, L. Larose et Forcel, 1890. — 651 pp.

It is unfortunate for the study of comparative administration that most writers on French administrative law follow so closely, in the contents of their books, the decree which governs the curriculum of the French law schools. For, while this decree undoubtedly indicates the subjects which, from the practical point of view, are of the greatest interest to French lawyers, it does not require the student to devote any time to a long series of matters which, from the point of view of comparative administration, are of the utmost importance. The result of this omission must necessarily be that such subjects are either not treated by the ordinary French writers with the fulness which they deserve, or else are absolutely neglected.

The latter is often the case in the book before us. While M. Marie treats very fully such matters as the organization of the administration and the general powers of the most important officers, yet when he comes to what the French call *matières administratives*, i.e. the various subjects over which the administration has jurisdiction, his book leaves very much to be desired. Almost the only such matters which are given any treatment at all are the exercise of the right of eminent domain, which in all French works on administration receives an amount of attention out of all proportion to its importance to the student of comparative administration; the matter of highways, which, like that of eminent domain, is extremely technical; the financial administration, and the military administration. The full treatment of this latter subject is valuable, however, on account of the fact that the law of recruiting has been very much modified by recent legislation.

The professed aim of the author has been conciseness. As the title of the book indicates, it is the elements of administration rather than the special development of all points in the administrative law, which he has undertaken to set forth. Though this fact will make the book useful to the beginner, it detracts from its value to one who has already mastered the elements and is in search of information on details. This is so not only because of the elementary character of the work, but also because in his efforts to be concise the author has seen fit to omit the authorities for his statements. Although he assures us in his preface that “il n'est pas . . . une affirmation, une ligne de ce livre qui n'aient